

Days of Discovery

San Diego June 2012

Kjell Skjellstad⁺ Editor in Chief

Giving Youth a Voice

“We believe that education for human service must have as its foundation a vision of enhancing human dignity and the quality of life. To do so, human services professionals must focus on moral perspectives in their professional and community services.” This vision formulated as a guide for the activities of the School of Leadership and Education Science at the University of San Diego could also be seen as providing the agenda for the June 22-23, Days of Discovery Conference that gathered school teachers from all over the US. The aim expressed by one of the sponsors, the Adobe Youth Voices, was to better equip educationists to empower youth from underserved communities to use technology to explore and express their perspectives on issues impacting them and their communities. The great challenge was formulated as reaching global audiences with local perspectives. Young learners from 52 countries are engaged in programs to develop thought provoking content on issues like domestic violence, environmental degradation and other social topics through using videos, animations, music etc. to inspire new solutions to long-standing problems.

⁺ Dr. Kjell Skjellstad, Professor Emeritus, University of Oslo, Department of Musicology, Norway

Igniting a Passion for Learning

Another overreaching aim of the two day meeting was to inspire teachers to reignite a passion for learning. In our digital world youth feel that what they learn in school is removed from the day to day reality they meet in their lives and does not prepare them to meet the life challenges in a way that provides an outlet for the own creativity. This problem was addressed by representatives for another giant of today's media world – the Discovery Channel who pointed to the great challenge represented by the global creativity gap. The Discovery Educator Network is created to provide tools for school teachers on a global basis to effectively enhance and upgrade learning environments through teaching with digital media, sharing resources and networking.

See online at:

www.youthvoices.adobe.com

<http://community.discoveryeducation.com>



Figure 1. School of Leadership and Educational Science, University of San Diego.